Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests
A Quarterly Newsletter of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division
Growing. Giving. — 2004 • YEAR OF — WISCONSIN FORESTRY

Exotic Pest Update

by Jane Cummings Carlson
DNR Plant Health Coordinator

Two exotic pests threatening Wisconsin's forests will be the focus of survey efforts this year for the DNR forest health protection program.

Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, is a serious threat to the health of Wisconsin's ash trees. Now known to be present in 13 counties in Michigan, and also in Windsor, Ontario, northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana, this wood borer can cause dieback and mortality of green, white and black ash. Michigan State hosts an excellent Web site on this insect. For the latest information on EAB in Michigan, visit www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm.

If EAB has already made its way into Wisconsin, a likely pathway would be through firewood. Thus, survey efforts in 2004 will focus on state forests and parks—places that are visited by Michigan residents who may bring their own firewood. Properties where ash is a more common component of the forest will be a high priority for surveys. Research in Michigan has shown that girdling green ash in late May can be done to "trap" or attract EAB adults. This method will be used in selected state forests as a supplement to visual observations. The USDA Forest Service has developed survey protocols. If you are planning an EAB survey for your property or community, consider following the nationally accepted protocols and field guide. The field guide can be found by visiting www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp/eab/eabfg.pdf. Please contact Jane Cummings Carlson for the survey protocols at 608-275-3273 or Jane.Cummings-carlson@dnr.state.wi.us.

Reporting potential EAB finds: All potential EAB infestations should be reported to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 800-462-2803. A potential find should have three of the following four symptoms: 1) dieback of the upper and outer crown, or mortality; 2) D-shaped exit holes; 3) serpentine galleries; or 4) presence of basal sprouts.

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden oak death (SOD) is caused by a fungus-like organism, *Phytophthora ramorum*. Currently only known to be present in California and Oregon (and parts of Europe) this disease is also a significant

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2004: Year of Wisconsin Forestry

In recognition of 100 years of forest management in the state of Wisconsin, Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed 2004 as the "Year of Wisconsin Forestry." It was in 1904 that Wisconsin hired its first state forester, E.M. Griffith, to manage Wisconsin's cutover forests and bring them back to productivity.

The purpose of the Year of Wisconsin Forestry is to promote a broader understanding of the role forests play in our lives, the many aspects of sustainable forest management and the successful recovery of Wisconsin's forest resource over the past 100 years. In addition to celebrating the history and advancements made in the field of forestry, goals for observing the Year of Wisconsin Forestry include raising the public's understanding of the forest resource, the benefits it provides and their dependence on the forest in their daily lives.

A special Web site has been developed to help people get involved in this centennial celebration and learn more about all aspects of forestry in Wisconsin. Please visit www.wisconsinforestry.org and find out how you can make this the Year of Wisconsin Forestry in your community.

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Volume 12
Number 1
Spring 2004

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Community Profile:
Tree City USA: Since 1993
Growth Awards: '95; '97–'03
Population: 17,777
Street Tree Population: 5582
Park Tree Population: 2064
Miles of Street: 109
Number of Parks: 20
Total Park Acreage: 277
Primary Industries:
American Express
Green Bay Packaging
Morning Glory Dairy
Packerland Logistics
Paper Converting Machine Company
Schneider National
Simon Bay Park Square Mall
Shopko Stores
Wisconsin Public Service

Program Profile:
Staff:
Tracy Flucke, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Timothy Bauknecht, Village Forester
4 seasonal employees
1 summer intern
Additional full-time employees as needed
Tree Board:
Jim Fameree, Chair
Robert Selner, Vice-Chair
Tom Anderson
Tom Jonely
Andy Kurowski
Norb Sell
Jim Tubbs
Equipment:
bucket truck
one-ton dump truck
pickup truck
brush chipper
watering trailer
trailer-mounted tree spade
dump trucks, loaders, skid-steer & backhoe as needed

2003 Program Statistics:
Trees Planted: 188
Trees Removed: 119
Trees Pruned: 523

2004 Operating Budget:
$134,562

Community Profile:

Village of Ashwaubenon

by Timothy Bauknecht
Ashwaubenon Village Forester

The village of Ashwaubenon, located in central Brown County and part of the Green Bay metropolitan area, was incorporated as a village in September 1977. Prior to achieving village status, Ashwaubenon functioned as a town since 1872. Ashwaubenon, a thriving community rich in the native American heritage from which it draws its name, strives to maintain the past in its vision for the future.

It is said that in 1795, Little Crow, son of a powerful Ottawa chief living with the local Menominees, rescued a Menominee girl kidnapped by a nearby band of Chippewas. Upon his return, Little Crow was to be known as As-ha-wau-bo-my or Side Looks, in recognition of the reaction given to Little Crow when rescuing the girl from her captors. The legend of the name is a source of deep pride for Ashwaubenon, so much so that an 86-acre park located on a peninsula surrounded by Ashwaubenon Creek and the Fox River was dedicated in 1976 to honor the man behind the legend.

Ashwaubenon understands that location is everything, including the key to success in business and a happy, healthy home life. Ashwaubenon's location offers a safe environment, quality education and a growing and prosperous business and industrial base. Ashwaubenon contains a diverse mix of residential, commercial and industrial land uses that offer both businesses and residents access to major markets while maintaining many of the amenities desired for today's suburban living. Estimates place the daytime population living, visiting and/or working within the village to be three to four times the published residential census population of 17,777.

Photo by Tim Bauknecht, Ashwaubenon

One of the amenities that urban residents find essential to a quality life is the establishment and maintenance of the urban forest within their community. Throughout the development of Ashwaubenon's neighborhoods, trees have always been an important component to its residents. In the '50s, '60s and '70s when many of Ashwaubenon's neighborhoods were being developed, the village administered a planting program to promote the existence of a healthy and full urban forest. Unfortunately the practice of tree planting was suspended and many of the forestry activities relaxed in the mid-1980s. This created potentially hazardous situations such as low-hanging limbs, weakened or dead trees, and visibility problems.

Beginning in the early 1990s, the forestry activities of the village have been revitalized under the guidance of a new director of parks, recreation and forestry. Ashwaubenon established its first tree board and was

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Published quarterly by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division.

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Articles, news items, photos and ideas are welcome.

This newsletter is available in alternative format upon request.

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Project Profile:

Black River Falls Downtown Tree Project

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by Cindy Casey
DNR West Central Region

Three years ago, the 26 trees in sidewalk cutouts along Main Street in Black River Falls were typical of the kind of downtown plantings all too often seen—the kind business owners, customers and street superintendents hate! Conflicts with storefronts, awnings, sidewalks and parked cars; visible tree health problems and ongoing maintenance issues fueled the opinion among some that trees should be eliminated from the downtown altogether.

Steve Sollien, then-manager of the Black River Falls Downtown Association, disagreed and proposed to remedy the situation with a formal assessment of the downtown trees, followed by an action plan to address specific planting, removal and maintenance needs. The downtown association contracted with Black River Falls native and Mid-State Technical College urban forestry instructor, Ron Zillmer, whose proposed management plan included an innovative design approach. In spite of the area's sandy, acidic *native* soil, testing revealed that impeded drainage, elevated pH and accumulated salts in the cutouts were limiting to plant growth. Zillmer's solution was twofold: modify the planting sites to improve drainage and plant a species able to tolerate a persistently wet, low-oxygen rooting environment while meeting all the aboveground requirements for downtown streetscape use.

In a first known application of its kind, tamarack (eastern larch) was chosen to replace the ailing Norway maple, littleleaf linden and balsam fir in the cutouts. Zillmer anticipates the tamaracks will eventually be limbed up 15 feet, providing adequate clearance for storefront windows and signs. With its tolerance of wet, low-oxygen, pH-neutral soil; its narrow crown and small, deciduous needles, this unconventional choice may potentially be a viable street tree option in parts of Wisconsin. The species was also chosen with consideration for sidewalk maintenance. Zillmer has observed that tamarack produces smaller-diameter roots than does green ash—a very common streetscape choice—whose relatively fewer but larger roots can lift sidewalks more readily and much sooner. Further modification at planting time consisted of backfilling the cutouts to about 2 inches below the bottom of the adjacent concrete slab. This was done so that, when properly positioned, the trees should have plenty of room for root diameter growth under the sidewalk without lifting.

Project implementation took place in two phases. In 2001, street department staff removed the four worst trees. To replace them, high school FFA students harvested wild tamaracks donated by a local property owner. The students temporarily maintained the trees in containers and planted them later that fall. To improve drainage under the four replacement trees, the city installed French drains, first excavating two feet below the sidewalk level in each 4' by 4' cutout and then, with a utility pole truck, drilling a 6-foot hole in the center of each. A 14-inch-diameter PVC pipe covered with a landscape fabric "sock" was inserted into the drilled holes and filled with stone. As the pipe was removed, an extra 8 feet of fabric at the top of the sock was folded over the rock surface to help keep soil particles from settling into the drain. Before backfilling with new soil, a drain tile loop was installed around the perimeter of the four cutouts, with tee extensions to the soil surface on opposite sides to facilitate gas exchange.

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Before: Above- and below-ground problems with existing trees led to a novel design approach.

During: Students from two area high schools and Mid-State Technical College excavated the cutouts, installed drainage and planted replacement trees…

After: … including the innovative selection of tamarack.

Photos by Cindy Casey, WDNR

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Village of Ashwaubenon

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awarded Tree City USA status for the first time in 1993. The village was also able to establish new plantings in cooperation with area businesses, community groups and the local utility company, Wisconsin Public Service. The director of parks, recreation and forestry served as the village forester for several years with the assistance of college interns during the summer months. A street tree inventory was conducted by an intern in 1994 and subsequently used to write the village's first urban forestry management plan in 1995.

Given the renewed successes of Ashwaubenon's urban forestry program, a project was undertaken with the nearby village of Howard to jointly contract for an urban forester to better manage their respective forestry programs. *(This project was highlighted in the project profile of the Autumn 1998 edition of this publication. See dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/uf/resources/Vol6No3.pdf.)* ACRT Inc. from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, placed Richard Vinz into the position where he quickly began providing his expertise to both communities. Considerable time was spent on the implementation of the village's urban forestry management plan, part of which included the establishment of a forestry line item in the village's annual budget. As a result of the project's success, both communities budgeted for and hired full-time urban foresters in 1998—Mr. Vinz stayed in Howard, while Ashwaubenon opted to promote a forester from within their ranks.

While serving as a contract forester in Ashwaubenon, Mr. Vinz updated the street tree inventory and collected field data to create a geographic information system (GIS) layer for the village's existing ArcView® program. The updated inventory has been used to prioritize the maintenance needs for our street tree population and reduce the number of requests and complaints from residents. After several years of work, all priority maintenance needs (hazard reduction pruning, tree removals, visibility problems, etc.) have been addressed and forestry crews are able to focus on establishing a routine pruning cycle. Currently, crews are in the sixth year of a projected seven- to eight-year pruning cycle.

Photos by Tim Bauknecht, Ashwaubenon

Tree-lined Cottage Grove Avenue.

To further the village's commitment to a greener, more livable community, ordinances have been created to establish minimum standards regarding green space and landscaping of commercial developments.

Thirty-year-old planting of Marshall's Seedless green ash on Orchid Lane.

Ashwaubenon's commercial and industrial regions—in some of northeastern Wisconsin's hottest real estate areas—have recently undergone extensive development and re-development. As part of the village's approval process for development of commercial property, all plans require approval from a site plan review committee comprised of elected officials, business leaders and community residents.

The village forester works closely with the committee to make sure the new developments meet the minimum landscaping standards and green space requirements. With the forester's input, our commercial/industrial areas are greener, more environmentally friendly areas.

Exotic forest pests are always a matter of great concern for foresters—urban and traditional alike. Gypsy moth continues to be a concern that threatens the health of trees not only in Ashwaubenon, but throughout many parts of Wisconsin. Volunteers have been instrumental in suppression efforts at a 15-acre park, using burlap banding to prevent defoliation of a mature oak stand. Over the last three summers, a small but dedicated group of volunteers has destroyed approximately 153,000 larvae in conjunction with egg mass oiling and aerial spray applications of Btk. The uncertain outlook of emerald ash borer certainly has Ashwaubenon and other communities re-evaluating their programs to promote species diversity and not repeat the lessons learned from Dutch elm disease.

Ashwaubenon's forestry program is continuously looking to the future to address the challenges ahead—most known and some unknown. Tight budgets, limited staff and exotic pests are a few issues not unique to Ashwaubenon, but facing forestry programs all over the country. With the economy beginning to show signs of recovery, financial support should begin to stabilize communities' budgets and available personnel. Given the evolution made to develop Ashwaubenon's urban forestry program in the last decade, Ashwaubenon looks to continue to build on the success of the past as we look to the future and make even greater strides in the next ten years.

Black River Falls Downtown Tree Project

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In 2003, the city eliminated one planting site and moved seven others to resolve conflicts with storefronts and awnings. To enhance drainage on these and the remaining tree replacement sites, the city installed a system of drain tile behind the curb, running the length of each block and connecting to existing storm sewer drainage basins. Tapping into the storm sewer system was much less expensive than digging down to the sanitary sewer level. For efficiency, all work was done in conjunction with the planned removal of deteriorating sidewalk pavers. For this second phase of project implementation, urban forestry students from Mid-State Technical College dug wild tamaracks donated by a cranberry grower in the Wisconsin Rapids area. In October, the Mid-State students, along with students and teachers from two Black River Falls high schools, excavated the cutouts and planted 16 of the donated tamaracks. City street department staff assisted by pulling out remaining trees, lifting and resetting tree grates, hauling away excavated soil, providing black dirt and mulch, and handling site cleanup.

The ongoing contribution of Karner Blue Garden Club members was invaluable to the project in several respects. Not only did garden club volunteers water trees during planting, they also kept the 2001 plantings alive with daily watering during the two-month-long drought in the summer of 2003. This was in addition to the club's regular maintenance of vegetation in the planters at each downtown street corner. Throughout the project, the garden club and downtown association also assisted with media coverage and educational outreach.

From the beginning, the downtown association was instrumental in keeping businesses informed and fostering project buy-in. Listening sessions were held with the business owners, many of whom were fed up with seasonal leaf litter tracked in by customers and trees blocking their signs. The tree replacement project was sold largely—and narrowly—with a "healthy is attractive" message.

From the beginning, this high-visibility project involved considerable innovation, planning, coordination, outreach, partnership development and plain, hard work on the part of many people. By accommodating the needs of businesses, customers, city staff **and trees** the Black River Falls Downtown Tree Project not only raised the standard for downtown planting, but shows you don't have to solve downtown streetscape problems by eliminating trees.

Notes: Excluding associated sidewalk work, costs for this project totaled approximately $27,000, of which DNR Urban Forestry grants covered half.

This project received the 2004 Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Project Partnership Award. See related article on page 8.

For more information about the project, contact Ron Zillmer at 715-422-5586 or rzillmer@mstc.edu.

Tree Vandalism in Oshkosh

by Kevin Westphal
Oshkosh City Forester

On the morning of Tuesday, April 22, 2003, the city of Oshkosh awoke to a horrific sight in its most prominent park. In one concentrated area of Menominee Park lay the aftermath of the previous night's destruction—11 young trees cut down by a vandal's saw. One other tree lay at the north end of the park to bring the death toll to 12.

The trees—ash, honeylocust, Redmond linden and swamp white oak—ranged in size from 1.5 to 4 inches in diameter. Three of the trees were recently planted through a post–June 2001 storm fund-raising campaign called Releaf Oshkosh. The cost of cleanup and replacement totaled $3626.

The citizens of Oshkosh reacted with outrage! Most people I spoke with were shocked that someone would do such a thing. It was the lead story on the local TV news channels. TV, radio and newspaper reporters interviewed me. The Southwest Rotary Club put up a $500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the vandal(s). They also started a fund-raising campaign to pay for replacement of the trees. Some people sent checks directly to the parks department.

Photo by Kevin Westphal, Oshkosh

The aftermath of vandalism in Menominee Park, Oshkosh.

It wasn't long until the reward paid off and the vandals were caught. It was two teenage boys out on a late-night rampage of wanton destruction. The boys were found guilty and sentenced to the following:

- pay restitution of $1813 each to the city
- serve 50 hours of community service by hauling water to trees in Menominee Park with 5-gallon buckets
- write a five-page essay on the benefits of trees
- counseling as deemed appropriate

In November 2003, all of the trees were replaced with a tree spade.

Community Tree Profile:

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Flowering Crabapple (Malus spp.)

by Laura G. Jull
Dept. of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Native To: Twenty to thirty species of crabapples are native in temperate regions of North America, Europe and Asia, however, hundreds of hybrids exist in the nursery trade. The two that are native to Wisconsin are *M. ioensis* (prairie crabapple) and *M. coronaria* (wild sweet crabapple), which are highly disease susceptible.

Mature Height: Most are between 15–25' tall at maturity; some cultivars only reach 5' tall

Spread: 4–25', depending on cultivar or species

Form: Ranging from low mound, shrub-like to dwarf trees to narrow-upright, wide-spreading, round, oval, horizontal, vase-shaped or pendulous (weeping) types (depends on cultivar). Some cultivars/species may sucker or produce water sprouts.

Photos by Laura Jull, UW-Madison

The shiny, red, persistent fruit of Red Jewel® flowering crab.

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate

Foliage: Alternate, simple, oval, 1–4" long; color can vary on leaves (light to dark green or various shades of purple); leaves can have serrated (toothed), lobed or incised (deeper cut) margins

Buds and Stems: Alternate, rounded, with several overlapping scales; reddish-brown, with woolly hairs protruding from the underside of the bud scales. Branches are upright, horizontal or pendulous.

Fall Color: Yellow, yellow-green, to bronze; usually not showy

Flowers: White, pink, rose, red, to purplish-red; flowers are often pink in bud. Flowers can be single, with 5 petals, semi-double or double with many petals. Flowers occur in umbels or corymb-like racemes and have yellow anthers. Some cultivars are alternate bearing, meaning that every other year the tree produces a large amount of flowers with the alternating years resulting in sporadic flower development. Choose ones that flower heavily each year. By using different cultivars/species, the flowering period can be extended from May to early June, with colors ranging from white to purplish-red. A few cultivars/species have fragrant flowers.

Malus 'Prairifire' in full flower.

Fruit: Pome, with a persistent or deciduous calyx. Fruit color ranges from purple, red, scarlet, pinkish-red, orange, yellow or green. Fruit attracts wildlife, especially birds. Some selections have outstanding fruit display, which can last until late winter. A few of the older cultivars/species produce large, ugly fruits that drop and create a huge mess, e.g., 'Hopa' crabapple. If fruit is less than 2" in diameter, it is considered a crabapple. If it is greater than 2", the plant is considered an apple tree. 'Spring Snow' is a fruitless cultivar, but is not recommended due to its susceptibility to apple scab, fireblight and watersprouts.

Bark: On older trunks, shiny, gray-brown and scaly

Site Requirements: Adaptable; prefers a heavy-loam soil, but tolerates clay soils as long as they are well-drained but moist, with no standing water. Crabs are pH adaptable, but can get chlorotic in severely alkaline soils. Requires full sun and open exposure to increase air circulation. Dormant season pruning of crabapples is best.

Hardiness Zone: Depends on cultivar and species, most are hardy to zone 4 with a few hardy to zone 3. Unfortunately, many of the zone 3-hardy cultivars/species of flowering crabapples are apple scab prone, except *M. baccata* 'Jackii'.

Insect & Disease Problems: Fireblight, apple scab, cedar-apple rust, powdery mildew, frog-eye leaf spot, cankers, Japanese beetle, spider mites, aphids, woolly aphids, leaf hoppers, scale, eastern tent caterpillar, fall webworm and borers. Susceptibility varies greatly between cultivars and species. Disease resistance can vary depending on where a particular cultivar is grown, so be sure to choose one that has been shown to be resistant to disease in your area. Some cultivars are prone to producing water sprouts on the branches or suckers at the base of plants. These need removal, as they lack flower buds and will outgrow the form of the plant. Rabbits and voles

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Urban Tree Health Matters:

"Sneed" Ailing Wisconsin Spruces

by Glen R. Stanosz, Ph.D., Professor
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Spruce trees in Wisconsin are exhibiting numerous symptoms indicating poor health. Affected trees occur in a variety of production and landscape situations, and have even been seen in forests. While the newest needles may appear normal, older needles are spotted, banded and discolored olive-green to yellow to brown. Symptoms progress and intensify over time. Needles eventually drop, so that fewer years' needles are held on the tree and crowns appear thin. Tree growth slows, with shorter and shorter shoots produced each year. Entire branches can become bare, and in landscape situations the appearance of some trees has become so poor that they have been removed. Without knowledge of the cause, this collection of symptoms has been referred to as spruce needle drop or "sneed" for short.

While sneed is an indication of poor spruce tree health, it has not been proven that any particular living pathogen (such as a fungus or bacterium) or nonliving factor (such as air pollution or a soil mineral deficiency) is responsible for sneed. To date, other spruce diseases such as Cytospora canker and Rhizosphaera needlecast cannot explain all the symptoms occurring in all situations. Thus, pathologists still cannot indicate that sneed is a disease or make management recommendations such as fungicide application for trees exhibiting sneed symptoms.

Several years ago, tiny, black, spore-producing structures (fruiting bodies) of a fungus were noticed on spruces in Wisconsin. After some difficulty, US Department of Agriculture mycologists finally learned that the fungus is called *Setomelanomma holmii*. This fungus was originally discovered in Europe, and previously was almost unknown in North America. However, it now has been found on Colorado blue, white and Norway spruces throughout Wisconsin, on nursery seedlings, retail stock, residential landscape trees, and also in forests. *Setomelanomma holmii* fruiting bodies are sometimes present on very healthy vigorous trees, but seem to be more and more abundant on trees with deteriorating health, especially those that exhibit severe symptoms of sneed. So the questions have been asked, "Is *Setomelanomma holmii* a pathogen that is causing a disease?" and "Will spraying fungicides inhibit *Setomelanomma holmii* and prevent spruce needle drop?"

Efforts are underway in the UW–Madison Department of Plant Pathology to answer these questions, using federal block grant funds generously provided by the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association and Wisconsin Nursery Association. *Setomelanomma holmii* has been cultured and now can be grown in the laboratory. An inoculation trial was attempted using small Colorado blue spruce and white spruce seedlings in 2002, but no symptoms developed that could be attributed to this fungus. A longer-term experiment is now underway. In spring 2003, potted trees were sprayed with the fungus and are being maintained on campus. As the trees grow, their condition and amount of *Setomelanomma holmii* present will be compared to another group of control trees that were not inoculated.

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Photo by Glen Stanosz, UW-Madison

One characteristic symptom of "sneed" is the progressive loss of older needles on living spruce branches.

What Damaged This Tree?

Photo by Cindy Casey, WDNR

Turn to page 15 to find out...

Urban Forestry Efforts Recognized

MADISON - Communities, businesses, coalitions and individuals who have taken steps to improve the care and appreciation of the trees around their homes, their streets and their green spaces were recognized by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council in ceremonies held at the annual Wisconsin Urban Forestry Conference in Green Bay, February 1–3.

Recognized for outstanding achievement were:
The nine-member coalition of **the Black River Falls Downtown Association, the City of Black River Falls, Mid-State Technical College, the Karner Blue Garden Club, the Black River Falls High School Agriculture Class, Glacial Lake Cranberries, Inc., Gil and Alice Homstad and Phoenix Alternative School**. The coalition convinced downtown Black River Falls business owners to replace ailing storefront trees with new ones instead of removing them permanently. The coalition's efforts made it possible for Black River Falls to keep its streets shady and green without becoming a nuisance and implement proper forestry technique. Businesses also learned that trees create a more inviting place to shop, provide essential shade in the summer, and a comfortable community atmosphere increasing visitation and sales. For its efforts, the coalition received the council's Project Partnership Award.

The **Town of Greenville**, population 7364, is located just west of Appleton. The town committed itself to intensive tree plantings only three years ago and has now developed a sophisticated community forestry marketing plan as well. The plan includes a snazzy video, a full-color brochure, a quarterly newsletter and a speakers bureau. Greenville hopes to persuade local citizens that trees belong everywhere: along roads, in commercial districts and even in backyards. "Planting a lawn? Why not a forest?" the town asks its residents. Greenville received the Innovations in Urban Forestry Award.

Many communities without city foresters find it difficult to maintain their trees. The small city of Chilton, population 3800, is an exception. Here, the all-volunteer **Chilton Tree Board** took the initiative.

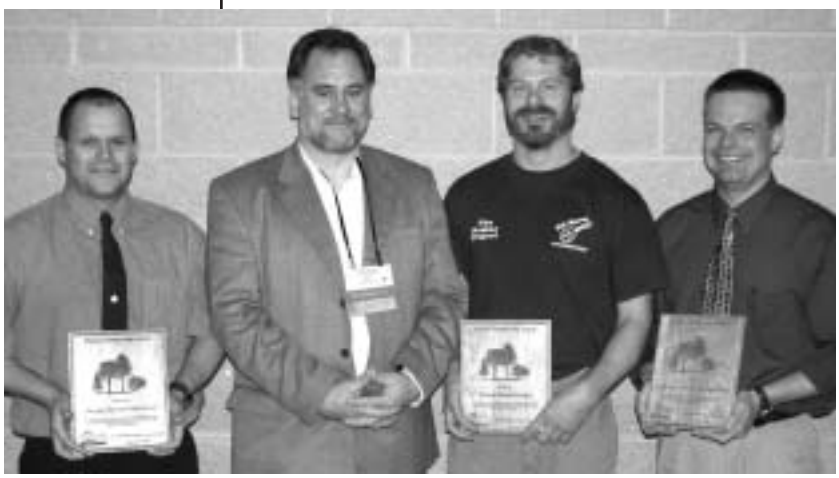

Photo by Jeff Treu

(L to R) Steve Markee, Phoenix Alternative School instructor, Jeff Edgar, UF Council chair, Joe Hoffman, Mid-State Technical College instructor and Brad Markhardt, Black River Falls High School instructor pose with the Black River Falls Project Partnership Award.

Photo by Jeff Treu

Innovations in Urban Forestry Award recipients (L to R) Chris Schaefer and Steve Nagy from Greenville receive their award from council chair Jeff Edgar.

Coming Events

May 26, 2004 – Milwaukee's Urban Environment, Cultivating the Ecological City, Italian Community Center, Milwaukee, WI. Contact Patricia Torres, 414-229-5916 or visit www.uwm.edu/Dept/CUIR and click on Events.

June 16-19, 2004 – Metropolitan Tree Improvement Alliance (METRIA) 2004 Conference, The Morton Arboretum and the Lisle/Naperville Hilton, Lisle, IL. For more information, visit www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/nursery/metria/.

June 28-30, 2004 – Community Forestry at Its Best, Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655, www.arborday.org/programs/Conferences.html or conferences@arborday.org.

July 15, 2004 – Wisconsin Arborist Association Summer Workshop, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, WI. Contact Dave Graham, 608-756-5561 or dwgco@ticon.net.

Since 1992, the results have been impressive: 750 trees planted, a new arboretum, a low-cost pruning program for residents and much more. The Chilton Tree Board won the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Distinguished Service Award for its 12 years of dedication.

The **Village of Denmark**'s administrator, Gordon Ellis, spearheaded the creation of an avant-garde tree and sculpture project modeled after similar ones in Europe, Australia and New York City. The installation, dubbed Three Miracles by Ellis, includes the planting of 100 flowering crab trees, three oaks and three limestone slabs. The "earth art" exhibit, completed in 2002, is richly symbolic, intended to provoke contemplation and insight. The project won the second Innovations in Urban Forestry Award from the council.

Murphy Oil Company of Superior's efforts illustrate how large companies can join together with communities to create unique partnerships promoting their local urban forest. In 1999, Murphy Oil established Tree Tales—an urban forestry education program aimed at elementary students. The company sponsors an annual sapling giveaway and has planted new trees along company site boulevards. For its continued efforts to support the urban forest, the company received the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Long-term Partnership Award.

Photo by Village of Denmark

Village Administrator Gordon Ellis displays the village's Innovations in Urban Forestry Award.

Photo by Jeff Treu

Council chair Jeff Edgar (R) presents Charles Schuknecht (L) with the Chilton Tree Board's Distinguished Service Award.

Photo by Jeff Treu

Dick Welch, Superior Urban Forestry Tree Board, Jackie Stenberg, Superior Common Council and Roger Putnam, representing Murphy Oil receive their Long-term Partnership Award from Jeff Edgar.

July 28, 2004 – Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Meeting, Manitowoc, WI. Contact Sarah Attwood, 608-266-1327 or sarah.attwood@dnr.state.wi.us.

August 7-11, 2004 – International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact Jessica Marx, 217-355-9411 Ext. 24, jmarx@isa-arbor.com or www.isa-arbor.com.

October 4-6, 2004 – Building for Greener Communities National Conference, Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655, www.arborday.org/programs/Conferences.html or conferences@arborday.org.

October 28-30, 2004 – TCI Expo '04, Detroit, MI. Contact Cyr@TreeCareIndustry.org or visit www.treecareindustry.org.

If there is a meeting, conference, workshop or other event you would like listed here, please contact Dick Rideout at 608-267-0843 with the information.

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Flowering Crabapple

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may occasionally damage or girdle trunks and branches. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilization as this can increase the incidence of disease.

Suggested Applications: Flowering crabapple is an excellent small specimen tree with great ornamental value. Requires less space than larger shade trees and provides for year-round landscape interest. Suitable to commercial and residential landscapes, urban tolerant and easy to transplant. The tree can also be used in containers or aboveground planters, parking lot islands, highways, under power lines or as a street tree.

Limitations: Disease and insect susceptibility make many cultivars and species not worthy of use. Apple scab can be severe, causing defoliation in summer. Apple scab resistance can also change over time as the pathogen can mutate making resistant cultivars susceptible, or resistant cultivars may become susceptible over time as different strains of the fungal pathogen move into the area. Japanese beetles are now becoming a huge problem on crabapples. They can quickly devour crabapple leaves. Pruning of water sprouts and root suckers needs to be done on some cultivars. Select cultivars or species that are produced on their own roots, i.e., not grafted or budded, if possible, to help reduce root suckers.

Comments: Flowering crabapples are beautiful, small, flowering trees for landscaping. There are few other trees that look as spectacular as a crabapple in flower. They are desirable for the foliage, flowers, fruit and habit or size. Some selections have outstanding fruit display which can last until late winter. Choose ones with excellent, annual-bearing flowers, small, colorful fruit, good habit and branching, and disease resistance, especially to apple scab.

Common Cultivars or Selections: There are many (over 700) cultivars and species of flowering crabapples, some are disease prone, produce large, messy, ugly fruit or have poor form, hence they are not recommended or are commercially unavailable. Here are the top flowering crabapple cultivars for use in the Upper Midwest:

'Adirondack': upright to oval, 15–20' tall, 10–12' wide, dark green leaves, dark pink buds opening to large white flowers, persistent red fruit, good for narrow spaces or formal look.

Malus baccata 'Jackii': upright, rounded form, 30' tall, 20' wide; fragrant, white, early-May flowers; persistent, deep red fruit borne on long stems, hardy to zone 3.

'Coral Cascade': semi-weeping form, 15' tall, 16–20' wide, pinkish-white flowers, persistent orange-red to coral fruit.

'Hargozam' (Harvest Gold®): upright form, 20' tall, 16' wide, red to pink in bud, opening to white flowers, persistent yellow fruit that turns gold to amber when cold.

'Jewelcole' (Red Jewel®): rounded to upright form, 15–18' tall, 12' wide; white flowers; persistent, shiny, bright-red fruit turning dark red when cold, borne on long stems; slightly susceptible to fireblight.

'Louisa': graceful, weeping form, 10–15' tall and wide, rose colored buds open to pink flowers, yellow fruit that fades to brown, birds devour the fruit in fall.

'Manbeck Weeper' (Anne E.®): wide-spreading, horizontal weeper, 10–12' tall and wide, white flowers, persistent cherry-red fruit.

'Molazam' (Molten Lava®): wide-spreading, horizontal, semi-weeper, 10–14' tall, 12–14' wide, red buds opening to white flowers; persistent, bright red-orange fruit.

'Orange Crush': spreading form, 12–15' tall and wide, purple to purplish-green leaves, dark pink to red flowers, orange-red fruit.

'Ormiston Roy': broad-rounded form, 20–25' tall, 20' wide, rose-red buds opening to white flowers, persistent yellow fruit that turns orange in late fall.

'Prairie Maid': rounded form, 15' tall, 15' wide, purple leaves changing to green, deep pink flowers, cherry-red fruit with a waxy bloom, birds devour the fruit in fall.

'Prairifire': rounded to upright spreading form, slow growing, 15–20' tall and wide; bark is shiny, purplish with lenticels; purple to maroon leaves changing to dark purplish-green; dark reddish-purple flowers open later than other crabapples; persistent purplish-red to maroon fruit.

'Purple Prince': rounded form, 15–20' tall and wide, rose-red flowers, purple leaves becoming bronze-green, persistent maroon to dark purple fruit, bark is purplish with lenticels.

Malus sargentii 'Candymint': low, wide-spreading form, 5–8' tall, 8–10' wide, deep pink buds opening to fragrant, rose-pink flowers, bronze-green leaves, red fruit.

Malus sargentii 'Select A' (Firebird®): selection from Johnson's Nursery in Wisconsin; compact, rounded, spreading form, 5–8' tall and 8' wide, slow growing, reddish-pink buds opening to white flowers and a large amount of small, persistent, bright-red fruit.

Malus sargentii 'Tina': dwarf form, can be low and shrubby, 4–6' tall, 8–10' wide or grafted on a standard to get taller plants, slow grower, reddish-pink buds opening to fragrant white flowers, dark red fruit, birds devour the fruit in fall.

'Sutyzam' (Sugar Tyme®): oval-rounded to upright form, 15–20' tall, 15' wide, pale-pink flower buds opening to fragrant white flowers, persistent bright-red fruit.

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Urban Wildlife:

Birding in the Urban Forest

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by Ricky Lien
DNR Urban Wildlife Specialist

Just the other day I heard a cardinal singing from a tree in my backyard. According to a phenology (study of the relationship between climate and the timing of natural events) calendar I have hanging in my office, a typical day for hearing the first cardinal of the year is February 9, so my backyard occurrence was close to when it usually happens. But, more to the point as regards my article today, by taking note of the bird in my backyard, I was joining 46 million other people in the United States who consider themselves birders. This information comes from a recent report issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, *Birding in the United States, A Demographic and Economic Analysis*. Consider the following interesting items from this report:

- Eighty-eight percent of birders (identified as those people who travel more than a mile for the primary purpose of observing birds and/or people who tried to identify or closely observe birds around the home) did so around the home, i.e., backyard birders. Forty percent of birders take part in that more active form of birding involving trips away from home.
- The average birder is 49 years old and more than likely has a better than average income and education. In fact, the higher a person's income and education, the more likely it is that person is a birder.
- When measured in terms of the percent of state residents participating in birding, Wisconsin ranks third in the nation at 41 percent. Only Montana and Vermont have higher rates, with 44 and 43 percent participation, respectively. The US average is 22 percent.
- Wisconsin is estimated to have 1,944,000 birders. Of these, 14 percent are out-of-staters who traveled to Wisconsin!
- In 2001, the year this survey data was collected, the 46 million birders in the US were responsible for $32 billion in retail sales and $85 billion in overall economic output. If Wisconsin's 1.944 million birders account for their fair share of these dollars, they account for $1.35 billion in retail sales and $3.59 billion in overall economic output!

So why do I bring this up? The following statement can be found at the conclusion of the above mentioned report:

"Their [birders'] enthusiasm for birding also translates into spending, thereby contributing significantly to national and local economies. The high values birders place on their birding trips is a solid indicator of birding's benefit to society."

In general it can be said that Wisconsin has a significant number of birders who are relatively affluent, well-educated and contribute a good chunk of money to the economy. In light of this, the DNR and Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative will be organizing an Urban Bird Workshop to be held this fall. We hope to use this workshop to bring municipal park and recreation directors, urban foresters, chambers of commerce and municipal decision-makers information regarding various aspects of urban birds—birding trails, habitat management, nuisance bird management, creation of community bird festivals, etc. Watch for more information as we put this workshop together.

Flowering Crabapple

continued from page 10

Malus zumi var. *calocarpa*: broad, spreading form, 15–20' tall, 15–20' wide, deep-red flower buds opening to fragrant white flowers, bright-red fruit, birds devour the fruit in fall, yellow fall color.

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Organization Profile:

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Wisconsin Wetlands Association

by Kristina Skowronski
DNR Southeast Region

Have you ever wondered what organization is dedicated to the restoration and protection of our wetlands here in Wisconsin?

Wisconsin Wetlands Association—a nonprofit founded in 1969 by naturalist and environmental activist James Zimmerman—is dedicated to protecting, restoring and enjoying wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based education, advocacy and action. With only 5 million acres of wetland remaining from the nearly 10 million acres of original wetland in Wisconsin, WWA is the only statewide organization focused exclusively on wetland protection.

WWA distributes a quarterly newsletter to an audience of over 1200 and boasts a membership of 850. Some focal activities of the organization include:

- providing information, advice, contacts and services to citizens throughout the state regarding impacts to wetlands
- monitoring and researching activities impacting wetlands, including new legislation and DNR rules and regulations
- training citizens in wetland protection, restoration and management
- maintaining a statewide network of citizens interested and involved in wetland protection
- taking the lead role in wetland protection advocacy at the local, state and federal level
- serving as a wetland information center

Wisconsin Wetlands Association

A major accomplishment for WWA was the signing of Wisconsin Act 6 by Governor Scott McCallum in May 2001. This act allowed for the protection of more than 1 million acres of isolated wetland area in Wisconsin that was no longer under federal jurisdiction.

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association runs a variety of environmental programs, including control of invasive species. Their Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol and Survey Training workshop is designed to help citizens learn how to control loosestrife in their communities. The program also incorporated volunteers last year to survey more than 6000 miles of Great Lakes coastal areas. The volunteers found and mapped over 600 infested areas. WWA also offers wetland restoration workshops and an annual wetland science forum.

WWA has a wonderful Web site detailing Wisconsin's wetland regulations, the wetlands of Wisconsin, current programs, and upcoming events and training. For further information, visit the WWA web site at www.wiscwetlands.org.

"Sneed" Ailing Wisconsin Spruces *continued from page 7*

Other experiments are evaluating the response of *Setomelanomma holmii* to fungicides. The fungus was grown in the laboratory on culture media containing various concentrations of three different fungicides. The fungicide chlorothalonil was the most inhibitory to growth of *Setomelanomma holmii*, even at relatively low concentration. With this knowledge, a field trial was established in 2003 with the help of Evergreen Nursery. Some trees are being sprayed periodically with chlorothalonil, others remain unsprayed. Symptom development and numbers of *Setomelanomma holmii* fruiting bodies produced on these trees will be monitored for at least two growing seasons. Inhibition of *Setomelanomma holmii* and suppression of symptoms will support involvement of fungi in sneed and point to a possible means of prevention.

Current work will continue during 2004 at UW–Madison and Evergreen Nursery. Hopefully the information gained will contribute to understanding the cause of sneed and maintenance of spruce health. Additional questions regarding the role of soil and weather influences on spruce health and variation in the incidence and severity of sneed symptoms could be examined in the future.

Note: The author gratefully acknowledges support from the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association and Wisconsin Nursery Association, seedlings provided by Evergreen Nursery and McKay Nursery, and the cooperation of Ron Amos and his staff at Evergreen Nursery in the fungicide test.

The Idea Exchange...

compiled by Jessica Schmidt
DNR Northeast Region

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Does your community or organization have an idea, project or information that may be beneficial to others? Please let your regional urban forestry coordinator know. We will print as many of these as we can. If you see ideas you like here, give the contact person a call. They may be able to help you in your urban forestry efforts.

New Pruning and Planting Posters

Over the last two years, DNR has produced two 8' x 10' displays for use at conferences, State Fair and the like. One display is on tree pruning and the other on tree planting. They have terrific graphics and really draw people into a booth. Only problem is they're BIG! The display structure comes in two heavy containers and the four display panels come in a third. They can be shipped from place to place using the various parcel shipping services, but they're not exactly useful if you only want to show them to a few people. So DNR's urban forestry working group came up with an idea: Why not convert the displays into posters so everyone can see them? Enclosed in this newsletter is the first poster on pruning. In our next issue we'll enclose the planting poster. If you'd like additional copies, contact your regional urban forestry coordinator. (See page 16.) On the other hand, if you have an event where you'd like the big display, it may be available. Contact your regional coordinator.

Billboards to Promote Urban and Community Forestry

The California Urban Forests Council and the regional urban forest councils are teaming together to promote a statewide billboard project. The CaUFC along with the regional councils are working with private sponsors and donors to put up 500 billboards and bus shelter ads in urban areas across that state. The billboards are being either heavily discounted or donated by the billboard media companies and will carry urban and community forestry slogans. Messages like "Right Tree, Right Place" and "Got Shade?" are already showing up. Each billboard mentions the CaUFC and local council in addition to the billboard sponsors. All of the organizations have links to the same Web page in the ad. *Info: www.caufc.org.*

Congratulate Your Tree City USA Community!

Similar to the California project, LaGrande, Oregon, has also found a unique way to promote urban and community forestry. All over town, businesses used their reader boards to congratulate the city on receiving another Tree City USA Award. This could be a great way to raise awareness for the Tree City USA program and gain support for your community's urban forestry program.

Trees to Protect and Restore Urban Watersheds

The Center for Watershed Protection is working with the USDA Forest Service in a cooperative agreement to develop a manual on how to protect and restore urban watersheds. The manual will contain detailed designs and other information on how to integrate trees and stormwater treatment practices. The 100- to 150-page manual will illustrate exactly how to conserve or create forests in specific areas of the urban landscape such as new subdivisions, rights-of-way, parking lots, city centers, stormwater facilities, parks, schools, older neighborhoods and stream/shorelines. *Info: Contact Karen Cappiella at 410-461-8323 or visit www.cwp.org.*

Strategies for Planting in Pits

Planting trees in a downtown setting can be a challenging task. "Positively the Pits: Successful Strategies for Sustainable Streetscapes" outlines street tree planting techniques that can be employed in restricted planting locations. The article can be accessed at www.natlarb.com/content/pubs/November_2003_TCI_-_Positively_the_Pits.htm.

Exotic Pest Update

continued from page 1

threat to oaks east of the Mississippi. The disease not only causes weeping cankers on oak, but also causes leaf spots on a wide range of herbaceous hosts common in the understory of oak forests in western and southeastern United States. The list of foliar hosts is growing on a monthly basis. The life cycle and epidemiology of this disease are complex. For an overview of the status of SOD, please visit www.suddenoakdeath.org/. Recent information regarding the movement of foliar host plants from an infected nursery in California into Wisconsin has prompted the forest health protection program in DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to conduct a survey for this disease. Together, these agencies will be surveying both nurseries and oak woodlands. Efforts will be focused on areas most likely to support this disease.

Council News:

Council Meeting of February 18, 2004

by Jeff Edgar, Chair
Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council

Council Chair Jeff Edgar

Photo by Silver Creek Nurseries

We could sure tell that spring is around the corner. The sky was blue, the sun was getting hotter and the snow was melting. Soon the busy season for most of us in the green industry will begin.

The busy season for the urban forestry council members seems never ending. A short time before the meeting date, we received news about a proposed change in the billboard law. The council is watching this issue very closely, as it may affect many street trees in our towns and cities.

Since we have a new governor for Wisconsin, there have been many changes in various committees that report to the governor. This wasn't any different with the Governor's Council on Forestry. There was a major turnover of members of that council. We were lucky to retain a spot on the council, represented by Ken Ottman. Seeing the council is heavily weighted towards traditional forestry, urban forestry kind of takes a back seat. What does affect us directly is the management of invasive exotic species of plants and insects. Studying this issue is the top priority of the governor's council.

Happy birthday to forestry! The year 2004 marks the 100th year of forestry in Wisconsin. The celebration has already begun. To catch up with what's been going on and to see what's coming up, tune your computers to www.wisconsinforestry.org. Maybe you can help out with a project or attend a forestry related function, such as the Arbor Day celebration at the state capitol on April 30th.

Along with Arbor Day, it was announced that land has been acquired in the Milwaukee area for a forestry education center. Everything is still in the planning stages for now. To help further public awareness in urban forestry, the urban forestry council will have a hand in program and the building design.

Most of the urban forestry council meetings are held in Madison. We meet quarterly. Luckily I have only a couple of hours to drive to make the meeting. Our furthest member, Dick Welch, comes all the way from Superior. Coming almost as far is Lisa Burban from the USDA Forest Service in St. Paul. Usually Lisa has some good information for us from the national level. This time around, she had some fantastic news in the form of a large grant. Wisconsin's annual urban forestry assistance grant from the Forest Service will be increased $50,000 for inner city urban forestry activities. In addition, a $91,500 grant will be going to a joint partnership between our own Heather Mann's organization, Urban Open Space Foundation, and NAACP for inner city projects in Milwaukee. If you would like more information on this partnership or about the Urban Open Space Foundation, again tune your computers to www.ouropenspaces.org.

We also welcomed two new (part-time) additions to DNR's urban forestry program, Sarah Attwood and Kathy Esposito. Sarah will be concentrating on urban forestry assessment, strategic plan tracking and act as the DNR liaison to the urban forestry council, handling all council logistics. Kathy joins us as a communication specialist. She will also be helping with public awareness planning and implementation.

I was pretty happy with the way our last meeting went. We started on time, and ended on time. There were 21 people attending, including Jim Warren, DNR Forest Lands Section Chief. Needless to say, the meeting room was packed. We covered many more issues at this meeting. I'm sorry, but I don't think I have enough room to mention everything in this article. If you want further information, you should contact your regional urban forestry coordinator. Oops! Sorry, for those of you in the South Central Region and the northern Milwaukee area of the Southeast Region, you still don't have urban forestry coordinators! These areas cover some of the most populous and visible areas of Wisconsin. We need these areas to be covered, which right now could be as late as July 1, if at all. As of May, the South Central Coordinator's spot will have been open for two years. Contact Dick Rideout at DNR to find out the best way YOU can help get these two positions filled.

Talk to you soon!

Urban Forestry Resources:

Wisconsin's Forestry Centennial

compiled by Cindy Casey
DNR West Central Region

Looking for ideas for a Forestry Centennial event? Here are a few resources to get you started.

National Register of Historic Trees — Find out about the many trees with direct connection to famous people or historic events, or nominate a tree that's historically significant to your community for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Trees* at www.historictrees.org.

Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees — Discover the rich history of more than 100 trees around Wisconsin, from the Tea Circle Oaks at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, to Merrill's Haunted Mansion Pine! This fascinating book contains many high-quality, black-and-white photographs, including those of featured trees no longer standing. Currently out of print, the book will soon be available on DNR's Web site.

Our Heritage of Community Trees — This 72-page booklet reviews the origins and history of urban forestry in Europe and the United States. It traces how trees emerged in urban landscape design and how arboricultural and urban forest management practices developed over centuries. Available for $16 from Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council, 56 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Arboriculture: History and Development in North America — This hardcover book chronicles the development of the science of arboriculture from its beginnings to the present. A companion video, "The Legends of Arboriculture," records the history of the profession and the influences upon it by the Great Depression, Dutch elm disease and gypsy moth, World War II, introduction of the chain saw, etc. Available for $59.95 (book), $24.95 (video), or $74.95 (set); member prices are $49.95, 19.95 and 59.95, respectively, from International Society of Arboriculture, PO Box 3129, Champaign, IL 61826-3129; phone: 888-ISA-TREE; fax: 217-355-9516; Web: www.isa-arbor.com.

Research Notes:

The Influence of Trees and Landscaping on Rental Rates at Office Buildings

by Robert J. Laverne and Kimberly Winson-Geideman

This study investigates the effects of trees and landscaping on office rental rates, based on a comparison of 85 office buildings in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Data that describe the quantity, functionality and quality of landscaping were gathered from each of the buildings including landscape maturity, the percentage of ground cover (trees, turf, pavement, etc.) and the functional attributes (building shade, noise buffer, space definition, recreation, visual screen and aesthetics). The analysis showed a positive effect for those buildings with good landscaping aesthetics and shade provided by trees. Conversely, landscaping that provided a dense screening produced significant negative impacts on rental rates.

Reference: *Journal of Arboriculture* 29(5): 281-290. 2003.

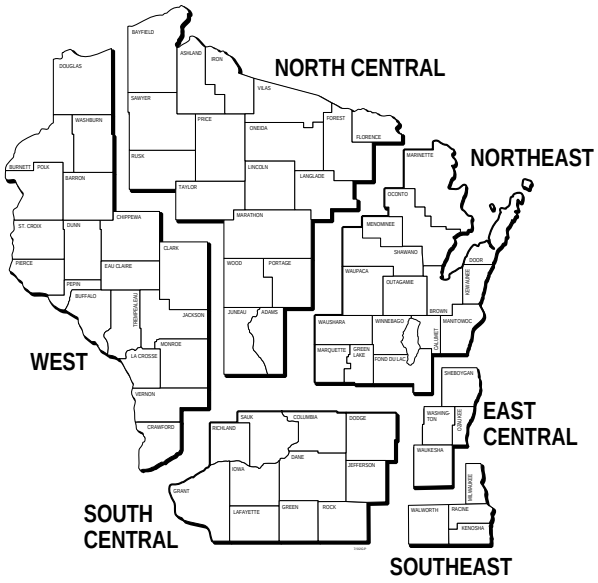
What Damaged This Tree?

Photo by Cindy Casey, WDNR

Answer: Chicken wire was placed around this park tree for rodent protection. Unfortunately, this memorial tree will soon need its own memorial!

Do you have pictures of tree damage others ought to know about? Send them to Kim Sebastian (address on page 16) and we'll print them here!

Wisconsin DNR Urban and Community Forestry Contacts



World Wide Web Site:dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/uf/

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